

The Advocate

For and about small businesses and local governments affected by environmental regulations

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Local Governments: Use EMS to Save Money and Protect the Environment

Starting January 2007 and continuing through July 2007, the TCEQ will sponsor FREE hands-on work sessions in the Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston areas to help government and public entities set up their own environmental management systems (EMS). An EMS is a great opportunity for a local government to save money as well as reduce its environmental impact and maintain compliance with environmental rules. For more information, please contact the course instructor, Elizabeth Frisch <elizabeth@culturetechnologies.com>, at 512-656-7518 or the training coordinator, Deanna Koelzer <deanna@culturetechnologies.com>, at 512-301-1128. ■

Message from SBEA Director: New SBLGA Leadership

I am pleased to announce that on November 1, 2006, Brian J. Christian became manager of the Small Business and Local Government Assistance Section (SBLGA).

Brian brings SBLGA a wealth of experience dealing with policy issues relevant to small businesses and local governments. While serving as a policy analyst for TCEQ's commissioners, Brian was involved in a wide variety of legislative and regulatory matters. Through his work with TCEQ executive management and his prior positions in various TCEQ programs, Brian has really learned what makes this agency tick. He has particular experience related to the State Implementation Plan (SIP), air permitting, alternative fuels, public participation, and waste management.

Most recently, Brian served as manager of TCEQ's Pollution Prevention program, which often works closely with SBLGA.

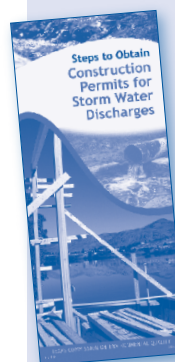
Prior to joining the TCEQ, Brian was a policy analyst and legislative liaison for the Texas General Land Office. He

began his career with the Texas State Senate Research Center after graduating from The University of Texas at Austin.

Under Brian's leadership, SBLGA will continue to provide compliance assistance through successful ongoing tools such as our hot line and web page <www.sblga.info>. Together, we are committed to building on our vibrant and successful relationships with our customers. Please join me in welcoming him to his new position!

—Matthew R. Baker, P.E.
Director of Small Business
and Environmental Assistance

Do You Need a Construction Storm Water Permit?



If so, the SBLGA program has a new brochure that details which construction projects require permits and outlines the steps needed to obtain permit coverage.

Steps to Obtain Construction Permits for Storm Water Discharges (RG-436) is now available online at <www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/rg/rg-436.html> or call 1-800-447-2827 to receive a free copy. ■

New Auto Body Guide Available: Request a Copy Today!

SBLGA is proud to announce the availability of its newest industry guide, An Environmental Guide for Texas Auto Body Shops (RG-432). This publication helps auto body shop owners and operators stay on top of environmental regulations with information about the air, water, and waste rules that apply to the auto body business. In addition, it lists tips for managing waste, protecting air and water, and preventing pollution.

You can obtain an electronic copy of this publication at <www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications> or call the SBLGA hot line at 1-800-447-2827 to request a copy. ■

Environmental Compliance Assistance in Fiscal Year 2006

The TCEQ's Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) program works with small businesses and local governments to help them comply with environmental rules. Over the past year, the SBLGA program has provided environmental assistance to approximately 7,200 customers through our toll-free hot line, one-on-one assistance, the EnviroMentor program, compliance tools, and the Compliance Commitment (C2) program. Figures 1 and 2 show the top regulatory issues that our customers faced in fiscal years 2004, 2005, and 2006.

Do you need help with any of these topics? SBLGA compliance specialists are ready to assist you. Just call the **toll-free hot line** at 1-800-447-2827 to receive free and confidential assistance today!

In addition to providing one-on-one assistance, SBLGA worked to develop and improve a number of tools to help small businesses and local governments stay in compliance. These tools include:

- *An Environmental Guide for Auto Body Shops* (RG-432),
- *Environmental Rules for Car Washes* (RG-434),
- *Public Water Systems: A Guide for Local Governments* (RG-422),
- *The Advocate* quarterly newsletters (PD-006), and
- the SBLGA web site, <www.sblga.info>.

For customers who need assistance from licensed professionals, SBLGA offers the **EnviroMentor** program. EnviroMentors include attorneys, engineers, consultants, and licensed wastewater operators. This group of dedicated volunteers donates its time to give "hands-on" compliance assistance to small businesses and local governments that may not otherwise be able to afford consultant services. In fiscal year 2006, EnviroMentors logged over 585 hours of volunteer service, saving our customers approximately \$67,000.

Would you like to showcase your dedication to protecting the environment? If so, SBLGA offers the **Compliance Commitment (C2)** program. This program coordinates free and confidential evaluations of a site's environmental com-

Figure 1. Top Regulatory Issues for Small Businesses (Statewide)

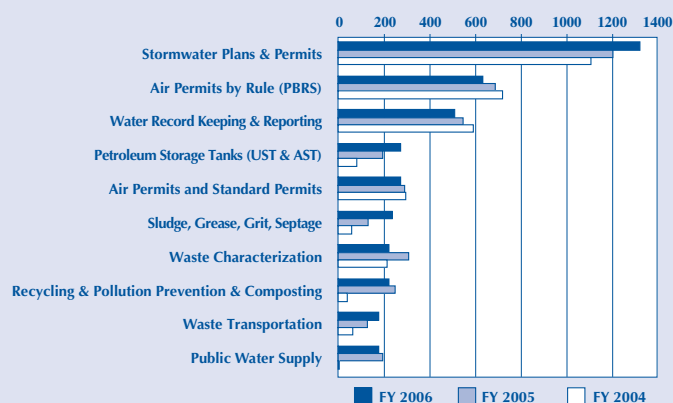
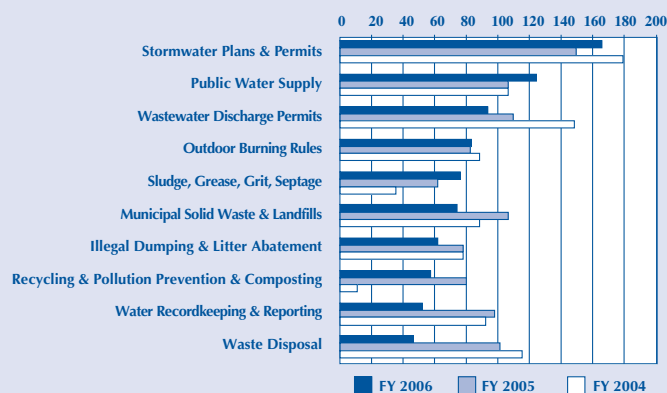


Figure 2. Top Regulatory Issues for Local Governments (Statewide)



pliance. Once the operator corrects any noted problems and demonstrates complete compliance, the site is eligible for C2 partnership.

In 2006, more than 300 site visits were conducted (296 small businesses and 20 local governments). Among those visited, over 50 sites demonstrated full compliance with the designated checklist and became C2 Partners!

SBLGA is proud to have had the opportunity to serve you in 2006 and we look forward to working with you in the years to come. For more information on our programs and tools, visit our web site at <www.sblga.info> or call us today at 1-800-447-2827. ■

Concrete Production Water Quality General Permit Reissued

The water quality Concrete Production Facilities General Permit (TXG110000) has been reissued and became effective November 7, 2006. This general permit authorizes wastewater and storm water discharges from ready-mix concrete plants, concrete product plants, and their associated facilities (Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 3271, 3272, & 3273). In addition, when certain conditions are met by the permittee, the general permit also authorizes concrete washout activi-

ties at off-site construction sites with the requirement to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI), and also authorizes the on-site use of wastewater and storm water for dust suppression, soil compaction, irrigation, and fire protection.

For more information on this permit, or to download a copy of the general permit and related forms, please visit the TCEQ web site at <www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/wastewater/general/TXG11_steps.html>. ■

Disclaimer

This regulatory guidance publication does not take the place of the full, official TCEQ rules. It is intended only as a general explanation about selected parts of the rules. If you have questions about any information contained in this periodical, contact SBLGA at 1-800-447-2827.

Get Free Wastewater Training in East Texas

SBLGA will offer FREE wastewater record-keeping and reporting workshops in the Tyler and Beaumont regions. The workshops will include hands-on training on how to properly complete discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) and on how to use the TCEQ's new electronic reporting system (e-DMR). Participants can

earn four hours of continuing education credit. Plus, participants can get answers to their questions from our knowledgeable staff and wastewater EnviroMentors. Check out the Upcoming Events section of The Advocate for the dates of workshops in your area or call 1-800-447-2827 for more information. ■

Attention: Clarification of New MSW Rules

The article *Rule Changes Give Small Communities Waste Disposal Options*, in the October-December 2006 issue of The Advocate, indicated that rule changes now allow transfer stations to submit notification to the TCEQ in lieu of registration if they accept less than 40 cubic yards of household waste per week. To clarify, the rule limits these low-volume transfer stations to a total storage capacity of 40 cubic yards and requires operators to send collected waste off-site to an authorized facility at least weekly.

For current Municipal Solid Waste rules, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/waste_permits/msw_permits/msw.html#rules>. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

TCEQ Small Business and Environmental Assistance Workshop
University of Houston, Small Business Center - February 21, 2007
Cynthia Williams, 713-767-3549
To reserve a seat, call 713-752-8444.

Texas On-Site Wastewater Treatment Research Council Annual Conference
Waco - March 5-7, 2007 - Polly Porter, 254-761-3039

Texas Rural Water Association Annual Convention
Austin - March 21-23, 2007, www.trwa.org

Automotive Recyclers Association "IT" Conference
Fort Worth - April 27-28, 2007, www.go-to-it.com

Wastewater Record Keeping and Reporting Workshops
Beaumont - April 23, 2007 - Charlie Adams, 409-899-8788

Small Business Advisory Committee (SBAC) Meetings
Houston - March 1, 2007 - Cynthia Williams, 713-767-3549
Dallas - April 3, 2007 - Chris Meeks, 817-588-5836
Fort Worth - April 4, 2007 - Tasha Burns, 817-588-5868
Houston - April 19, 2007 - Cynthia Williams, 713-767-3549

Local Specialists are Ready to Help You!

You have free, confidential help right in your back yard.

Region 1 - Amarillo
Vacant

Region 2 - Lubbock
Celeste Hoehne, 806-796-7642

Region 3 - Abilene
Mandy Ellifritz, 325-698-6104

Region 4 - Dallas/Ft. Worth
Tasha Burns, 817-588-5868
David Hudson, 817-588-5929
Christopher Meeks, 817-588-5836

Region 5 - Tyler
Kathy Bell, 903-535-5158

Region 6 - El Paso
Pamela Aguirre, 915-834-4974

Region 7 - Midland
Janet Prim, 432-620-6116

Region 8 - San Angelo
Chandra Eggemeyer, 325-481-8061

Region 9 - Waco
Polly Porter, 254-761-3039

Region 10 - Beaumont
Charlie Adams, 409-899-8788

Region 11 - Austin
Will Wyman, 512-239-7015

Region 12 - Houston
Clarence Gray, 713-767-3582
Cynthia Williams, 713-767-3549

Region 13 - San Antonio
Carol Avery, 210-403-4076
Ann Marie Callery, 210-403-4092
George Ortiz, 210-403-4039

Region 14 - Corpus Christi
Glenda Swierc, 361-825-3421

Region 15 - Harlingen
Imelda Pena, 956-389-7427
Jonathan Diaz, 956-389-7428

Region 16 - Laredo
Carmen Ramirez, 956-721-8457

The Advocate

The Advocate is published quarterly by the Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) Program of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

You are currently on our subscription list to receive the quarterly rules update, The Advocate. Instead of receiving the paper copy in the mail, you now have the option of receiving e-mails from us when we post the latest issue in PDF format on our Web site at <www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/pd/pd-006.html>.

If you would prefer e-mail instead of the printed copy, please e-mail us at <sbap@tceq.state.tx.us>. Be sure to let us know the name your subscription is under and the e-mail address you would prefer us to send to, if different from the one you use to contact us.

CALL ON US


Toll Free & Confidential: 1-800-447-2827

Get free, confidential help with questions on air, water, waste, or pollution prevention issues from this special section of the TCEQ. SBLGA works for you by:

- providing local environmental assistance when and where it's needed;
- communicating technical information in plain language; and
- giving small business and local government a voice in TCEQ rule and policy making.

On the Web at: www.sblga.info

SBLGA is entirely separate from TCEQ's enforcement program.

 The TCEQ is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. The agency does not allow discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation or veteran status. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this document may be requested in alternate formats by contacting the TCEQ at 512-239-0028, Fax 512-239-4488 or 1-800-RELAY-TX (TDD), or by writing P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SMALL BUSINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL
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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
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